1		2	3	4	5	6
X.	Electronic Goods	819.24	587.61	726.68	1119.94	1178.97
XI.	Project Goods	81.64	71.48	39.39	"25.59	18.18
XII.	Textiles	8504.85	8322.77	9169.34	10693.60	9617.20
XIII	Handicrafts	525.86	633.11	668.63	861.51	547.91
XIV	Carpets	545.60	543.54	645.09	581.68	503.37
XV.	Cotton Raw Incl. Waste	221.15	49.18	17.79	48.39	9.17
XVI	Petroleum Products	352.75	89.43	29.98	1892.43	2125.44
	GRAND TOTAL	35006.00	33219.00	36822.00	44560.00	43827.00

SOURCE: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Development of New Silk Route

3886. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to increase trade with Central Asian countries, India, Iran and Afghanistan have agreed to develop a new silk route;

(b) the names of Central Asian countries with which this route will connect India; and

(c) the benefits, apart from trade to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As part of its global effort, government has taken concrete action to put in place mechanisms to facilitate increased trade, inter alia with Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asian countries. In a meeting held in Tehran on 4-5 January 2003, India, Iran and Afghanistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Development and Construction of Transit and Transport Infrastructure in Chabahar-Milak-Zaranj-Delaram route, aimed at improving access to Afghanistan, and upgrading the infrastructure at Chabahar port and relevant road segments.

(b) Central Asian countries that would be connected with India through this route are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

(c) The new route is expected to cut distances to Central Asian

countries significantly. This would also enhance people-to-people contact between India, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Export of agricultural products

3887. SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a rise or fall in exports of Indian agricultural products to various world markets;

(b) the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government plan to open new markets for export of agricultural products; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY); (a) and (b) The statistics of export of agricultural products (excluding tea, coffee, cotton, castor oil) from India for the last three years, tabulated below, reveal a rise in exports.

Year (April-March)	value (Rs. Crores)
2001-2002	16773.48
2002-2003	18666.68
2002-2003 (April-January)	17310.71
2001-2002 (April-January)	14806.91

(SOURCE : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) and (d) The Government have initiated various measures to increase export of agricultural products in the international market. These, *inter alia,* include setting up of agri export zones to provide enhanced international market access and improved infrastructural facilities, better flow of credit, assistance for transport, handling and processing on export of selected agricultural commodities as also removal of export restrictions like requirement for registration, packaging, etc.